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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08
AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 OIC-02
/119 W
----------037531 241546Z /53
O P 241444Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7323
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5393

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG
SUBJ: BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: BASIC HUMAN NEEDS
APPROACH

REF: STATE 180536

1. USUN OFFICER DISCUSSED "BASIC HUMAN NEEDS" (BHN) APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT WITH INDIAN MFA OFFICIAL ARUNDATI GHOSE AT LUNCH JULY 23. GHOSE STRESSED THAT BHN IS THE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPING AND DONOR COUNTRIES ALIKE. THE CURRENT DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, SHE THOUGHT, WERE ON THE MEANS TO THOSE OBJECTIVES AND THE CONTROL OF THOSE MEANS. NO DEVELOPING COUNTRY WOULD ALLOW AN OUTSIDER TO DETERMINE ITS DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
YET, IF A BHN DONOR INSISTED, FOR
EXAMPLE, ON CHANNELLING AID TO RURAL EDUCATION, THEN THE RECIPIENT HAD TO ALLOT SCARCE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND
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MANPOWER RESOURCES TO THAT SECTOR, EVEN IF THAT MEANT SHORT-CHANGING A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EMPHASIZING OTHER SECTORS. IT WAS FINE, SHE CONTINUED, THAT THE US WANTED TO GUARANTEE THAT ITS AID "REACHED THE PEOPLE"...BUT THERE WAS NO ASSURANCE OF THAT HAPPENING WITH OR WITHOUT A BHN APPROACH. EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT IN SOME POOR COUNTRIES, SHE SAID, MUST AWAIT SOCIAL CHANGES THAT OFTEN TAKE

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DECADES. NO NEW AID STRATEGY, NO MATTER HOW WELL
INTENTIONED, COULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR THOSE CHANGES.

2. DRAWING ON REFTEL, USUN OFFICER SAID THAT NOTHING IN
BHN NEED PREEMPT THE RIGHT OF EACH COUNTRY TO DETERMINE
ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. HE DESCRIBED EVOLUTION
OF AMERICAN AID STRATEGIES OVER THE YEARS, AMERICAN AID
SUCCESSES AND FAILURES, AND THE CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL
CLIMATE. GHOSE SAID THAT HER GOVERNMENT UDNERSTOOD THE
DOMESTIC FACTORS GOVERNING THE US APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE AND WAS NOW TRYING TO DRAFT AN "EXPANSION OF
NAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY" THAT WOULD "MAKE SENSE" TO
WESTERN PLANNERS. THE INDIAN DRAFT WOULD REAFFIRM A
COMMITMENT TO BHN AND RECEPTIVITY TO BHN ASSISTANCE. IT
WOULD UNDERLINE, HOWEVER, THE ROLE OF THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.
IT WOULD EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR LARGE SCALE, INFRASTRUCTURAL
PROJECT AID AS WELL.

3. MISS GHOSE STRESSED THE NEED FOR ALL TO SEE THE
DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS A WHOLE, WITH BHN AS THE OBJECTIVE.
THERE WERE MANY MEANS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE, SHE SAID,
WHICH MUST BE TAILORED TO EACH COUNTRY. THERE HAD TO BE
A MIX OF LARGE SCALE AND SMALL SCALE PROJECTS. ALSO, SHE
SAID, A KEY FACTOR TO THE SUCCESS OF DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS
WOULD BE MORE AFFIRMATIVE WESTERN RESPONSES TO THE NIEO,
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ESPECIALLY REGARDING TRADE. SHE ADDED
THAT THERE WAS
PLENTY OF COMMON GROUND ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES BETWEEN
DEVELOPING AND DONOR COUNTRIES, AND THAT BETTER
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO ON BHN WAS NECESSARY.

4. USUN OFFICER REMARKED THAT THAT COMMUNICATION MIGHT
BE MADE A LITTLE EASIER IF THE NAM SOFTENED ITS CRITICISMS
OF BHN AS CONTAINED IN THE

AM HAVANA COMMUNIQUE'S SECTION
ON THE SUBJECT (WHICH GHOSE DRAFTED). IF GHOSE DEALT
WITH THE BELGRADE BHN SECTION WITH AS BALANCED A VIEW AS
THE ONE SHE HAD JUST PRESENTED, HE SAID, COMMUNICATION
WOULD DEFINITELY BE ENHANCED. LAUGHING, GHOSE SAID THAT
"WE HAD TO BE TOUGH ON BHN IN HAVANA--IT WAS THE FIRST
TIME WE TREATED THE SUBJECT. NOW WE'VE MADE OUR POINT."
EAGLEBURGER

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NNN

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